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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-third session
Agenda item 16

CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Written statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I), International Council of Jewish Women, International Council on Jewish Social and Welfare Services and International Federation of University Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[13 August 1991]

1. The above-mentioned organizations welcome the initiative made at the sixteenth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with regard to the validity of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This is a matter that has been of concern to women's organizations for some time.

2. At the meeting of 10 April 1987 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), a draft general recommendation was adopted:

"Upon examination of reports from States parties, at its sessions the Committee expressed concern in relation to the significant number of reservations which appear to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. The Committee welcomes the decision of the States parties to consider reservations at their next meeting in New York in 1988, and to this end suggests that all States parties concerned reconsider such reservations with a view to withdrawing them."

3. Very many reservations have been made on certain articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. These concern equality and discrimination; employment; legal equality; freedom of movement and domicile; and status in marriage. These matters stand at the heart of the problem of discrimination.

4. The above-mentioned organizations request the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to support the proposal that the matter of validity of reservations to the Convention should be referred through appropriate channels to the International Court of Justice for an opinion.

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Sub-Commission on Prevention of
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Forty-third session
Agenda item 8

THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Written statement submitted by International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council 1296 (XLIV).

[14 August 1991]

1. By the use of unreasonable force resulting in the destruction of thousands of homes and villages; the relocation of tens of thousands of people; summary executions; other violations of personal human rights; a failure to honour treaty agreements and 16 months of a siege of unreasonable severity, causing death by blockading medical supplies, Papua New Guinea has displayed gross violation of all the economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Bougainville Island.

2. In June 1988 the Panguna Land Owners' Association demanded that Papua New Guinea honour the provision for renegotiation of the Bougainville Copper Mining Agreement, which was supposed to be reviewed every 7 years and which Papua New Guinea had chosen to ignore for 11 years. The concerns of the landowners were the extreme levels of environmental destruction of the flora, fauna and culture of the people and that Bougainville's resources had been extracted for the benefit of Papua New Guinea with little remuneration for the people of Bougainville. Mass migration of mainlanders was also of concern.

3. The failure of the Government of Papua New Guinea to address requests for renegotiation led to demonstrations by the landowners resulting in the closure of the mine. Villages and schools were stafed and closed, and hospital staff were harassed; villagers were herded from many rural areas into "care centres", some plastic tents were set up in the market places to accommodate the displaced whilst others took to the jungle for protection. In 1989/1990 over 6,000 village homes were destroyed by the Papua New Guinea Defence Force resulting in the displacement of 24,000 people from their homes and villages. Recently, since the reinvasion of Buka Island, these numbers have increased dramatically.

4. The human rights violations committed by the Government of Papua New Guinea against the people of Bougainville during the past three years are well documented in official reports by Amnesty International, the ICRC, the Australian International Development Bureau, reliable media interviews, photographic evidence and in documents collated by the then North Solomons Provincial Government.

5. What started out as a localized dispute spread and developed into a self-defensive struggle against these human rights violations.

6. Papua New Guinea withdrew its forces on 1 March 1990, taking all the government people from Bougainville and suspending all services. On 23 April 1990, a complete blockade of the island was declared by the Government. This blockade and the refusal to negotiate left no alternative but to declare independence on 17 May 1990.

7. Subsequent attempts at negotiation have resulted in broken treaties and attempted re-invasion by Papua New Guinea. The siege has had catastrophic results for the people. No humanitarian relief, including medical supplies, has been allowed into Bougainville. Islanders are denied all access to communication. The only activities on the once-prosperous island are gardening and hunting; the industries lie dormant, the towns deserted, the schools and hospitals closed. Some 5,000 people have died as a direct result of a lack of basic medical supplies, 8,000 children have not been immunized and previously benign diseases have become life-threatening.

8. The Solomon Islands, first colonized by Germany in the mid-nineteenth century, were separated from Bougainville, in agreements made in 1900 between Germany and the United Kingdom, "for the settlement of the Samoan and other questions". The Southern Solomons were traded to the United Kingdom.

9. After the First World War, the German territories, collectively termed New Guinea, became a part of the League of Nations mandate and were placed under Australian administration along with the Australian Territory of Papua. People began to object to the territorial separation from the Solomons with which marriage and trading links had existed for thousands of years. During the Second World War they were occupied by the Japanese and the Americans, and once again handed over to Australian administration as a United Nations Trusteeship, still separate from the Solomons.

10. The Australian colonial administration of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea was responsible for the opening of the Panguna mine in 1964, in

conjunction with Rio Tinto Zinc, not only to benefit the shareholders, but to be used by Australia to fund the entire territories of Papua New Guinea. The landowners objected to the proposed mine and were dealt with harshly by the Australian administration, including armed threats.

11. In 1975, when Papua New Guinea was to be declared independent, Bougainvillians were denied access to a plebiscite by Australia and Papua New Guinea. This was a clear denial of the right to self-determination according to the freely expressed will of the people concerned (General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV)).

12. One cannot understand the willingness of the people of Papua New Guinea to prosecute with violence a claim on a territory over which they know, as tribal people, they are not entitled to.

13. Bougainville is only 6 kilometres by canoe to the Solomon Islands, which is over 1,000 kilometres from Papua New Guinea. It is ludicrous to remain a separate territory from the Solomons, with whom it shares culture, ethnicity, tradition and geography whilst Papua New Guinea shares none of these prescriptions for the self-identification of people.

14. In August, 1990 the Endeavour accord peace treaty was concluded. One week later Papua New Guinea re-invaded Buka Island in the North and recommenced its programme of human rights violations with public torture and summary executions. More villages were destroyed and new "care centres" established on Buka, in blatant violation of all the intentions and prescriptions of the Endeavour Accord and in clear breach of the Geneva Conventions (article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949) to which Papua New Guinea became a party in 1976.

15. For humanitarian reasons, the Soloman Islands Government initiated further talks between the two sides resulting in a fresh agreement signed on 23 January 1991. Under the terms of the Honiara Agreement, both sides agreed to "accept external assistance" in the form of a peacekeeping force. Again the treaty was violated by further military incursion onto Bougainville. Papua New Guinea's lack of integrity in failing to honour treaties and agreements has been a major contribution to the resultant bloodshed and points to the need for international monitoring of treaties between States and peoples.

16. In summary:

1. Bougainville is geographically a separate land from Papua New Guinea.

2. Bougainville's people differ from those of Papua New Guinea ethnically, culturally and consciously.

3. It is economically viable as a State and capable of trade relations with other countries.

4. It possesses a Government representative of the people which maintains sovereignty over the territory.

5. The people have maintained a desire for autonomy, as expressed in the 1 September 1975 declaration of independence, since 1918.

6. It has a common heritage with the Solomon Island people through eons of trade and culture which it does not share with the people of Papua New Guinea.

7. The population of 160,000 people represents a numerical sufficiency for independence.

8. The economic exploitation of Bougainville constituted a denial of self-determination and the right to sovereignty over natural resources as contained in article 1 (2) of the International Covenants, various General Assembly resolutions and article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

9. Discrimination against Bougainvillians violates many group rights including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

17. The only meaningful way to secure human rights for the people of Bougainville is to recognize their right to self-determination, which is unassailable. The exercise of that right would guarantee the economic, social and political rights of the people in the future. Such recognition does not constitute a breach of Papua New Guinea's territorial integrity in contravention of international law for two main reasons:

(a) Bougainville, historically, was not a part of Papua New Guinea; and

(b) According to the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV)), States have the right to maintain territorial integrity only when they are "possessed of a Government representing the wole of people belonging to the territory without distinction to race, colour or creed".

18. We submit to this Sub-Commission that it adopt a recommendation requesting the United Nations Secretary-General to use his good offices to facilitate dialogue between the State of Papua New Guinea and the people of Bougainville. We further request that the United Nations initiate humanitarian assistance by participating as observers in:

1. Future negotiations to insure implementation of the prescriptions for restoration of facilities and services for the people.

2. The establishment of the prescribed multinational peace-keeping force to encourage an environment suitable to the reactivation of all economic, social and cultural rights.

3. Any democratic elections or plebiscites as may be necessary to insure the future democratic freedom of the people of Bougainville.

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Sub-Commission on Prevention
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Forty-third Session
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH
THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

Written statement submitted by International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[14 August 1991]

PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

1. ARTICLE 19, the International Centre Against Censorship, urges the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its present session to authorize a preliminary study on ways to extend additional protections to journalists. By its decision 1990/116, the Sub-Commission decided to postpone consideration

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of draft resolution E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/L.45 until the forty-second session. The draft resolution welcomed the report prepared by Mr. Waleed Sadi entitled "Protection of journalists" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/17) and decided to authorize:

> "a preliminary study on ways and means to extend additional protection and assistance to journalists and mass media personnel while they carry out their duties with objectivity and fairness, with a view to exploring the possibility of developing some basic principles and guidelines in this respect".

2. The rapporteur was invited, in particular: "(a) to analyse the different kinds of violations of journalistic rights, (b) to elaborate specific guarantees that may be necessary if journalists are to be able to pursue effectively their reporting of human rights violations, and (c) to propose concrete measures which the United Nations and member Governments might take to help protect and assist journalists and mass media personnel".

3. ARTICLE 19 urges the Sub-Commission to approve the substance of this draft resolution during the present session. The reasons for a preliminary study on ways to extend additional protection to journalists are, if anything, even more urgent than they were one year ago. Journalists, especially those who pursue their professional duties with dedication, have been subjected to an increased number of violent attacks, detentions and other harassments over the past year.

4. ARTICLE 19 has collected reliable information concerning 56 journalists killed since July 1990. Many were killed soon after reporting stories about government or non-governmental corruption, including involvement in drug-trafficking; others were killed after writing stories critical of government agents or non-governmental entities engaged in armed conflicts. One feature which characterizes most of the killings is that the assailants were never brought to justice; in many cases the Government was unable or unwilling to take credible steps even to investigate the killings.

5. ARTICLE 19 has received reliable information about more than 250 journalists who have been detained since July 1990. More than 120 remained in detention as of 25 July 1991.

6. The Gulf war highlighted the vulnerabilities of journalists and press freedom generally during periods of armed conflict. All parties to the conflict engaged in violations of fundamental press freedoms. Hundreds of journalists were detained or harassed. Some were detained for only brief periods, perhaps in order to discourage them from pursuing stories. More than 50 have been held by Iraq since March 1991, many of them reportedly in exchange for Iraqi POWs. A few were prosecuted by military tribunals for war-related reporting.

7. In a number of countries - including Algeria, Austria, Jordan, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States - police harassed or obstructed journalists who sought to cover deomonstrations against the war. Several countries - including Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia - expelled foreign journalists.

8. Several press monitoring groups criticized the coalition Governments for their manipulation of information. Pursuant to rules issued by the United States Defence Department on 7 January 1991, only journalists working in Pentagon-selected "pools" were permitted into conflict zones, reporters were required to travel with military escorts at all times, and all news reports had to be submitted to military officials for pre-publication clearance resulting in petty censorship (such as the block on a report that Navy pilots watched pornographic movies before their missions) and delays in issuing stories of sometimes as long as three days. Press groups complained that non-American and non-British journalists were discriminated against and journalists who sought to gather information independently were penalized. On several occasions, authorities issued misinformation; for instance, United States authorities told journalists that the Saudi border town of Khafji had been recaptured by coalition forces long before it had in fact been recaptured. Of particular concern was the coalition's interference with access to information, and areas where information might have been gathered, about the number of civilian casualties due to aerial bombing.

9. The information summarized above is more fully set forth in ARTICLE 19's publications, Stop Press: The Gulf War and Censorship and Killings and Detentions of Journalists: July 1990-July 1991. The information confirms the need for further study in order to seek ways to offer stronger protections to journalists as well as to elaborate clear guidelines concerning the exercise by journalists of the right to freedom of expression and access to information.

10. ARTICLE 19 is aware that some experts may believe that a study on the protection of journalists would overlap substantially with the excellent study already undertaken by Mr. Türk and Mr. Joinet on the right to freedom of opinion and expression. ARTICLE 19 has supplied information to those rapporteurs on various issues, and considers their report to be extremely valuable. ARTICLE 19 furthermore is of the opinion that the proposed study on protection of journalists could be so designed so as not to overlap in any way with the report on freedom of opinion and expression. The report on freedom of opinion and expression is a scholarly and comprehensive study of the main elements of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, such concepts as "democratic necessity" and "proportionality", positive government obligations to ensure media pluralism and a host of other issues crucial to the elaboration of the parameters of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in general.

11. In contrast, what is needed to enhance protections for journalists is a brief study that examines specific rights which may be necessary to protect journalists in pursuit of their professional duties and to effectuate the right of the public to receive information of legitimate public interest, especially concerning possible human rights abuses. A study of protections owed to journalists would in some ways resemble reports on protection of lawyers, although a study on protections for journalists could be considerably less complex. (See, for example, the working paper prepared by Mr. Joinet on "means in the area of monitoring by which the Sub-Commission could assist in ensuring respect for the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practising lawyers" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/35), and the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.) ARTICLE 19 does not propose that every professional group engaged in effectuating or defending

human rights requires a separate set of protections. ARTICLE 19's point rather is that the right to freedom of expression and access to information is peculiarly underdeveloped in the area of journalists' rights and that a brief study could go a long way towards providing standards which non-governmental organizations and others could use in seeking to protect journalistic rights and thereby promote the public's right of access to information and government accountability.

12. The right of access to information is particularly important during periods of armed conflict both because of the need to ensure government accountability and because human rights violations are especially likely to be committed. Governments may owe a special duty to journalists to permit them to enter conflict zones. This duty, if it were to be articulated, might be based on the importance of human rights reporting as a means of monitoring, and thus discouraging, abuses during periods when abuses are particularly likely to be committed. This duty would include the duty not to harass journalists found within or seeking entry into conflict zones, such as by confiscating their equipment, or interrogating or detaining them.

13. Another interest of journalists which Governments may be obliged to respect is the right not to reveal the identity of their sources save in extraordinary circumstances. The right is necessary particularly if reporters are to be able to gather information on corruption and abuses by Governments and armed goups since, without recognition of such a right, sources are likely not to disclose information owing to fear of intimidation or attack.

14. It may also be useful to set forth in a document specifically concerning journalists' protections to which all people are entitled but which are especially important in safeguarding the ability of journalists to pursue their professional duties. The most important such obligation may be the Government's duty to investigate attacks and threatened attacks, and to prosecute and punish fully those identified as bearing responsibility. Even though the most serious attacks on journalists - namely, murders and disappearances - are generally not committed by Governments, none the less, government failure to conduct rigorous investigations serves to undermine journalists' rights to life and security of the person as surely as does direct Government commission of violations.

15. Another right owed to all people but particularly important for journalists is the right of civilians to be tried by regular courts. Journalists are especially liable to be tried by military courts for criticizing the military or for publishing stories about the military, even when the stories in no way implicate national security concerns.

16. For all of the above reasons, ARTICLE 19 respectfully urges the Sub-Commission to authorize a preliminary study on ways and means to enhance protection of journalistic rights.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by Anti-Slavery International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[13 August 1991]

Western Sahara

1. Anti-Slavery International (ASI) wishes to record its support for the peace plan put forward by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the Security Council (resolution 658/1990) and for the establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) approved by the Security Council on 17 May 1991 (resolution 690/1991).

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2. ASI was the first organization to bring to an international forum the question of self-determination for POLISARIO (Commission on Human Rights, March 1976), under the agenda item relating to violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms with particular reference to colonial and other dependent territories) and the implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination (Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discriminattion and Protection of Minorities, August 1977).

3. ASI welcomes the cessation of hostilities after 18 years of struggle and urges that the greatest support be given by member States to the United Nations Special Representative for Western Sahara, Mr. Johannes Manz, in his delicate task of implementing the referendum plan, which is unique. It hopes that every effort will be made to keep to the planned timetable. In particular ASI would like to draw attention to certain aspects of the referendum, some of which should be resolved through the ongoing negotiations between POLISARIO, the Government of Morocco and the United Nations Special Representative:

(a) Repatriation of Saharawi refugees: UNHCR has not yet secured all the contributions necessary for its work. It is not clear how the refugees will travel or where they will stay.

(b) Moroccan presence: after September 1991, with the reduction of the Moroccan army to 65,000, the Saharawis will still be outnumbered by the Moroccans by three to one. The United Nations force is only 1,695 troops. It is not clear how the "neutralization" of police and paramilitary forces will be achieved.

(c) Sovereignty: Morocco's annexation of Western Sahara has never been officially recognized by the United Nations or by any foreign Government. However, during the referendum, according to the amended plan of April 1991, the infrastructure and administration will remain in the hands of Morocco. The plan of June 1990 indicated that the territory would be under United Nations sovereignty during the period. This arrangement is not problematic if the outcome of the referendum is the eventual integration of the territory into Morocco. If, however, the referendum's outcome is to opt for self-determination, this arrangement is not auspicious.

(d) Resources: although the plan has received good financial support there is no margin for delay. There seem to be no contingency plans nor resources if things go wrong.

4. Whatever the result of the referendum there will be many problems still to resolve and ASI urges that the situation continue to be monitored with regard to human rights.

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Forty-third session
Agenda item 12

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISABILITY

Written statement submitted by Disabled Peoples' International
a non-governmental organization in consultative status
(category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[16 August 1991]

1. Disabled Peoples' International, a cross-disability coalition of nearly 100 national affiliates mostly from developing countries, began efforts at the United Nations in 1982 to promote and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities and to prevent disabilities caused by human rights violations. In so doing, we have intended to instil our philosophy in United Nations human rights bodies: all persons with disabilities are citizens with equal rights, and hence should achieve full participation and equality with their fellow non-disabled citizens in all societies. We have also intended to emphasize our motto, Vox Nostra (our own voice), to reinforce our principle that only disabled persons, or persons designated by disabled persons and their organizations, speak for disabled persons.

2. We now await the final report of the Sub-Commission's Special Rapporteur on human rights and disability, Mr. Leandro Despouy. Owing to the historic nature of the final report as well as to our long, intense and highly productive process involving the Rapporteur, the Sub-Commission, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council, each of which responded favourably to our appeals, we would now like to review briefly the events that have led up to the report.

3. The Sub-Commission responded to our plea to focus attention on human rights and disability from 1982, our first year attending the session. Sub-Commission resolution 1982/1 introduced Mr. Asbjørn Eide and co-sponsored by 18 other members, began the process by highlighting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the non-discrimination article (art. 2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The resolution began a reporting process by which Goverments, specialized agencies, regional intergovermental organizations and non-governmental organizations could present views regarding human rights and disability.

4. In 1983 and 1984, the Sub-Commission had before it reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/36 and Add.1-4; E/CN/4/Sub.2/1984/9 and Add.1, submitted pursuant to Sub-Commission resolution 1983/15) and Disabled Peoples' International setting out a variety of views on the topic. In 1984, the Sub-Commission, taking into consideration Commission resolution 1984/31 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/26, named Mr. Leandro Despouy as Special Rapporteur to prepare a comprehensive study on human rights and disability (see Sub-Commission resolution 1984/20).

5. The Rapporteur submitted a preliminary report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/32) and a progress report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/11). The final report was to have been presented to the Sub-Commission at its forty-second session (1990) but, due to a variety of difficulties, the Sub-Commission, in agreement with Disabled Peoples' International, suspended debate on the item and postponed presentation of the final report until its forty-third session (1991) (see Sub-Commission decision 1990/113 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/SR.32 (statements of Mr. Despouy and Disabled Peoples' International)).

6. Between 1982 and 1990, Disabled Peoples' International has presented over 30 documents or statements to the Commission and Sub-Commission and has met extensively in Geneva with the Rapporteur and the Secretariat on issues set out in the Rapporteur's mandate. Additionally, the Rapporteur attended several international meetings of Disabled Peoples' International where he presented his ideas regarding the study and listened to much testimony from our members from all parts of the world. The Rapporteur also met with our Human Rights Committee for a five-day work session, and with our International Chairpersons and Executive Director during the course of other international meetings related to the topic. Disabled Peoples' International arranged for our Argentine Chapter to coordinate with the Rapporteur as necessary, and provided a special assistant to work with the Rapporteur in Buenos Aires to carry out special research at the direction of the Rapporteur.

7. Disabled Peoples' International has been exceptionally pleased with its warm, productive and creative relationship with the Rapporteur, the Secretariat and the Sub-Commission. 1/ Throughout this process, the Rapporteur especially has made himself available to us, and at all times manifested true understanding of our organization's dedication to full participation and our own voice. Because of this multifaceted cooperation, we are all assured that the final report will reflect the best thinking, the best insight and the best proposals for all of us as the United Nations and persons with disabilities approach the twenty-first century. Also, in part because of this historic work, we anticipate that the full realization of all human rights for persons with disabilities throughout the world is near at hand.

8. Realization of human rights will not be easy, however. No organization is more aware of the many daily struggles for dignity that persons with disabilities endure. These daily struggles can help to lead to a better way, especially with wide dissemination of the Rapporteur's study. For this reason, Disabled Peoples' International strongly urges the Sub-Commission to recommend to the Commission that the final report be published in the United Nations World Campaign for Human Rights Study Series or other appropriate series. We also urge the United Nations Department of Public Information, as well as Governments, to seek ways to provide editions of this work in languages other than the United Nations official languages and, of course, also on tape, in large print and in Braille editions for blind or vision-impaired persons. Because of the importance of this topic to the world's children with disabilities, we also encourage preparation of a children's version of this report.

Note

1/ Disabled Peoples' International also warmly thanks the many Governments that, through their financial and other support, have assisted the process at the Commission and ECOSOC level as well as in their own jurisdictions. While it is impossible to list them all, we must mention our "home" countries: Canada, Sweden and Zimbabwe, and the Rapporteur's country, Argentina.